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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Progress in implementing NPT has not met expectations of drafters, Egypt tells 1995 Review and Extension Conference; Lebanon says Treaty must be made universal, citing need to eliminate nuclear weapons from Middle East.

+ Secretary-General says success of UNMIH will require full cooperation of Government and people of Haiti; free and fair elections would facilitate economic and social development.

+ Special Representative for former Yugoslavia meets with Bosnian parties to negotiate extension of cessation of hostilities agreement; UNPROFOR denies Bosnian Serbs access to weapons at collection points in Sarajevo.

+ Special Representative for Rwanda expects Kibeho crisis to end within days, but Rwandese soldiers begin evictions at three more camps for internally displaced persons.

+ Government of Rwanda appeals to all refugees to return home to assist reconstruction efforts; says it is committed to resettlement and reconciliation.

+ Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations concludes general debate with discussion on unified command and control, and cooperation with regional bodies.

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Progress in implementing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has not lived up to the expectations of its drafters, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amre Moussa told the 1995 Review and Extension Conference today. There had been some progress in concluding treaties to control medium-range and strategic nuclear weapons, he said, but stockpiles of nuclear weapons were bigger today than they were 25 years ago when the NPT Treaty came into force. Egypt could not support the Treaty's indefinite extension as the situation in the Middle East was volatile and unsatisfactory.

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Lebanon's Foreign Minister, Fares Bouez, said that to remain credible, useful and effective, the NPT must be made universal. Israel's failure to sign the Treaty meant that the Middle East was a long way from becoming a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The region was continuously imperiled by Israel's nuclear weapons, at a time of complicated and violent conflict. Peace and stability in the Middle East demanded the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in the region.

Gaston Ibanez of Peru said the NPT was the sole effective guarantee of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. The growth in its membership reflected its success over the last 25 years. Peru firmly supported the indefinite extension of the Treaty as the sole instrument available to continue nuclear disarmament and to facilitate nuclear cooperation.

Conference President Jayantha Dhanapala (Sri Lanka) extended condolences to the people of the United States following yesterday's tragic bomb attack in Oklahoma City.

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The transfer of responsibilities from the Multinational Force to the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) was a milestone in international efforts to bring peace and stability to the country, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report dated 13 April, he said there was reason to hope that UNMIH would be as successful as the Multinational Force, notwithstanding its broader mandate. However, the Mission would need the full cooperation of the Government and people of Haiti.

The Secretary-General said the state of the Haitian economy would be a critical factor. Although economic development was not part of its mandate, UNMIH would provide assistance where possible. In that regard, Cristian Ossa had been concurrently appointed Deputy Special Representative and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It was the first time the Organization had linked a peace-keeping operation to development in such a manner.

UNMIH had the means and the determination to carry out its mission, which was to help the Government provide security and create conditions that would allow it to maintain law and order without external support, he stressed. The establishment of the new Haitian police force and the rehabilitation of the judicial system remained crucial for the maintenance of a secure environment and for the consolidation of democracy, respect for human rights and an end to impunity. Successful elections would create stable institutions, enhancing security and facilitating social and economic development.

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Special Representative Yasushi Akashi today continued his efforts to secure an extension of the Bosnian cessation of hostilities agreement beyond 30 April, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Akashi met this

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morning in Sarajevo with Prime Minister Haris Silajic, and was scheduled to travel to Pale this afternoon to meet with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. He was expected to return to Sarajevo tomorrow for a meeting with President Alija Izetbegovic.

The spokesman said there had been problems regarding the use of Sarajevo Airport. Aircraft approaching from Zagreb had been forced to turn around in mid-air yesterday and today because of a Serb liaison officer's unwillingness to issue security guarantees. The spokesman stressed that the Bosnian parties had no right to veto United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) or United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) flights.

UNPROFOR peace-keepers yesterday denied Bosnian Serb soldiers access to weapons at two collection points in the Sarajevo area. Also yesterday, a mortar round landed in the parking-lot of the French battalion's compound, damaging three trucks.

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Special Representative Shahryar Khan expects the crisis resulting from the Rwandese Government operation to close the Kibeho camp to be over within two or three days, a United Nations spokesman said today. The Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) visited Kibeho today. He expressed concern about the displaced persons pushed to the centre of the camp area, and about the lack of food, water and sanitation.

The United Nations has been holding intensive talks with the Rwandese Government, while agencies and non-governmental organizations have been working to resolve the humanitarian situation, the spokesman continued. However, there were reports that Rwandese soldiers had surrounded three more camps for internally displaced persons, and had begun evicting their occupants. The Government had stated that the supply of water, food and other relief materials would be contingent on the continuous movement of displaced persons to their home communities.

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Meanwhile, the Government of Rwanda has reiterated its appeal to all Rwandese refugees to return home to participate in the reconstruction of the country In a letter to the Security Council dated 18 April, it said the return of refugees was an inalienable right and would contribute to peace, unity and national reconciliation.

Some 1.2 million refugees had already returned to Rwanda, according to the letter. However, there were still more than 2 million exiles and about 300,000 internally displaced persons. The Government had taken a range of actions to promote their return, including negotiations with neighbouring countries, a campaign for reception and national reconciliation, and identification of resettlement sites.

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The Rwandese Government said it intended to accelerate the setting up of local administrations, to deploy international human rights observers, and to reorganize the judicial system. It was also committed to the effective establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal, and to the speedy and equitable trial of those responsible for genocide and massacres. The Government reiterated its gratitude to countries which were sheltering refugees and to the international community, and urged them to pursue humanitarian action for the return of refugees.

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The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations yesterday concluded its general debate, which began on 10 April. Among the issues discussed were unified command and control of operations and cooperation between the United Nations and regional bodies.

New Zealand said unified command and control and other measures were needed to strengthen peace-keeping operations. During the planning phase of an operation, every effort should be made to name a force commander. Indonesia stressed that regional organizations had an indispensable role to play in peace-keeping efforts, although the United Nations had primary responsibility for international peace and security. Malaysia called for the elaboration of principles and guidelines for peace-keeping operations.

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